

Pioneer Profiles

Old Swinburne-Gilliam house to be destroyed

By Justine Weatherford

The old house that sits back from the corner of Church and Jones streets in northwest Heppner was built in 1885. Until Dec. 1974 it had belonged to only two families. Its present owners are Howard Cleveland and Milo Prindle.

There had been some hope that this interesting showplace could be preserved, perhaps moved and restored, but Cleveland says some of its wood is rotting and that vandals have damaged the structure considerably. He says that he knows that the damage was done by some juveniles and some adults, too.

Therefore, this 90-year-old landmark may soon be burned as a training exercise by the Heppner Fire Department to clear the grounds for future development. Thus one of the town's few really historic buildings with its 19th century style will vanish.

In its youth this was a showplace. The grounds were carefully planned. The windmill which pumped its water stood above an artisan well very near the corner of the present streets. The landscaping and gardens and pastures included the property where the McMurry and Robison houses and Don Gilliam's mobile home are now. There was a large stable behind and to the north of the house. Many unusual trees were planted on

the grounds, and in spite of recent neglect a few of them still live.

The house with its pillared porches and decorative windows shows the elaborate trimmings that were popular long ago. Its stately entrance hall, large, sliding interior doors, bay window with its wide seat below, and circular stairway are details no longer found in family homes. Its cellar still holds rows of hooks on which the family meat supply hung. Attached to its back are the woodshed, coal bin and store rooms. It was heated by wood and coal stoves in almost every room; one of its parlor or bedroom stoves and the old kitchen stove were among the items purchased for the museum by Mrs. Amanda Duvall just before the new addition to the museum was built.

The house was constructed for Dr. Eugene Ralph Swinburne who had married here in 1884. His bride was Viola E. Smith, daughter of pioneer Harvey Smith who had come here from Lebanon, OR, in 1870. Dr. Swinburne was 37

years old and his bride was 20 when they married. In 1886 they became the parents of a son, Ralph D. Mrs. Swinburne died in May 1888 at the time of the birth of a daughter, who only lived one day. Their son became Dr. Ralph D. Swinburne who practiced oral surgery in Seattle. He died in Seattle in 1969 leaving his widow, Maybelle, a daughter and 4 grandchildren. He is buried near his parents in Heppner Cemetery.

E.R. Swinburne, M.D., had a homestead in the county in Township 3, south range 26, east of Willamette meridian, section 27, which was patented in 1884. He remarried in 1889. His second wife was Cora Abshier. They were divorced. Dr. Swinburne died in Portland in 1918.

Don Gilliam still has the deed that his grandfather Frank Gilliam received in 1892 when he purchased the property which was being sold because of the Swinburne divorce. It is signed by Cora Swinburne of Kentucky. A second signature on the deed is that of J.W. Morrow, county

clerk.

The Frank Gilliams lived in the house with their five children, sons Leonard, Clinton, and Earl and daughters Ona and Hazel. Three of these who grew up there are now at the Pioneer Memorial Hospital here: Earl and Ona Gilliam and Hazel Vaughan (Mrs. Charles Vaughan).

Don Gilliam lives in his mobile home just above the property bought by Cleveland and Prindle. He still has many family papers. He has generously shared Gilliam keepsakes and books with the museum and with the library. He says he doesn't think he wants to watch the old house being burned.

One of the interesting old scrapbooks in the county museum belonged to Ralph Swinburne. It holds many old postcards. Six colorful cards advertise "Swinburne's Cough Cure" and were given out with the compliments of the Slocum Johnston Drug Co., Heppner, Oregon. This cure must have been produced by Dr. E.R. Swinburne.

Private enterprise in the marketplace

"Civilization and profits go hand in hand." Calvin Coolidge

"I do not believe a man can ever leave his business. He ought to think of it by day and dream of it by night." Henry Ford

"I am not on Wall Street for my health." J. Pierpont Morgan.

At the very center of the American economic system is the belief in free enterprise—the business equivalent of the frontiersman's rugged individualism. It meant the right to produce what you wanted, how you wanted, in whatever quantity you wanted, and to sell it wherever you could. How free—or private—is most enterprise today? As the nation pushed restlessly westward, private enterprise supplied much of the thrust. Imagination, initiative, the willingness to take great risks in the hope of reaping great rewards—these were what made the machine go. How significant are such traits in the American character today? The marketplace breeds competition which so the theory goes, protects the consumer from high prices and fraud. The free enterprise system sees competition as a means of harnessing ambition to public benefit. Does it in fact lead to excellence? Or does it simply insure the survival of the craftiest, the most powerful, the least

scrupulous? In pursuing profit does business give the consumer a fair deal? When does competition cease to be healthy? Should the attitude be caveat emptor—let the buyer beware—or should the buyer be protected? What benefits does free enterprise bring us today?

Americans prove to be marvelously ingenious at inventing and improvising what they need: the Kentucky long rifle, the repeating pistol, the cotton gin, the reaper, the threshing machine and the plow, the safety pin and the sewing machine, the street lamp and the first practical typewriter. And, of course, the electric light bulb, the telegraph, the Model T, and the airplane.

Learning the ways of the city while doing charitable work, Horatio Alger begins writing books about rags-to-riches successes. He becomes an Horatio Alger story himself as his 119 books sell more than 200 million copies.

Consumer protection becomes an issue in the early 1900s under prodding from the muckrakers and their books: Ida M. Tarbell's History of the Standard Oil Company; Upton Sinclair's The Jungle; Frank Norris' The Octopus. In the 1960s, there is an active consumer movement, and by the 1970s the government creates a Department of Consumer Affairs.

Grazing fees are hit

Oregon Farm Bureau Federation President Waldron Johnson has wired President Ford for a moratorium on fee increases on federal grazing lands.

Johnson's text referred to the hardship imposed on Oregon livestock producers who rent annually thousands of acres from the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service for a renewable resource.

"The recent increase of 50

per cent imposed by the government does not reflect costs of production to the producer, or the return he gets for sale of his livestock," the wire stated.

Johnson asked that a moratorium be imposed until the grazing fee formula is investigated by Congress.

Toward the end he has requested such an investigation from Oregon's congressional delegation.

BMCC approves salary increase

A salary increase approximately equal to the rise in the cost of living was approved by the Blue Mountain Community College Board of Education.

At its regular January meeting, the board approved economic agreements for both faculty and support staff personnel for the coming school year.

The faculty agreement calls for an increase of 8.5 per cent on a base salary of \$10,679, plus an increase of \$30 in annual increments. Total increase for faculty members comes to 9.6 per cent.

Negotiations centered on the Portland area cost of living index for the fiscal year ending last June 30, showing a rise of 9.3 per cent.

The agreement with the support staff provides for a salary increase of \$50 a month, or 10.8 per cent.

The college board also agreed to continue to pay the full cost of health insurance for both groups. Although an increase in rates is expected,

the exact amount is not yet known.

In other business the board told President Ron Daniels to continue studies on the feasibility of establishing a two-year Associate Degree Nursing program at BMCC. The study is to include comments from state educational and medical authorities.

Bob Hawk, Dean of Applied Sciences, told the board the two-year nursing program could be underway by September 1977 if the 1976-77 school year is used as a planning year. The new program would require two additional full time instructors before it can be approved by the state, he added.

An opening class of 36-40 students could be admitted in September 1977, with another 36-40 admitted the following year. State guidelines call for four full time instructors during the first year and five in subsequent years.

Oregon YCC jobs open

Applications will be accepted Feb. 16-March 15 for about 350 jobs with the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) in Oregon.

The continuing youth program is operated by individual states, U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Forest Service. Entering its sixth year, the YCC is designed to provide employment during the summer for persons at least 15 and not yet 19 years of age.

There is no restriction in the YCC in regard to race or economic background, but applicants must have an interest in the natural environment. Former enrollees are not eligible for a second year, but they are eligible for youth leader positions.

Participants in the YCC, a work-learn program, are introduced to environmental problems, contribute to their solutions and work with the management and development of public lands.

In past years, the YCC has completed projects involving stream improvement, tree thinning, range fencing, trail clearing, and construction of recreation facilities, among others.

Young men and women work side by side beginning about the last week in June and continuing eight weeks.

Persons interested in the program may obtain more information and applications from high school counselors, state employment offices, the Governor's Commission on Youth, or from National Forest headquarters.

Last week was a beautiful sunny week with cold nights. The pussy willows are in bud.

Navajo heroism is confirmed

Robert Henry Jr., Heppner High School student, had news this week about his great-grandfather, who is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

U.S. Representative Al Ullman confirmed the heroism of the Navajo scout who distinguished himself in the Apache Wars.

Ullman wrote: "Your great-grandfather Jeff King was indeed a Navajo scout with the U.S. Cavalry during the Apache Wars. He was a member of the group of Navajo scouts whose valor and courage are memorialized by a stone arch

at Fort Wingate, New Mexico, constructed in their honor.

He was later buried in Arlington National Cemetery at the time of his death in 1963, in grave 35-1566, at the listed age of 98.

"I wish to inform you that the American Indian Society in Washington, D.C., has been decorating Mr. King's grave yearly, for the past five years."

The great-grandson of the famed Navajo scout is making his home with the W.W. Weatherfords while attending school here.

Undeground lines installed

Columbia Basin Electric Coop. is continuing to add underground lines.

In three years the total miles of underground line in service has increased from 3 miles to 41.9 miles.

The local utility now provides service to 3010 square miles with 1289.9 miles of

overhead line and 41.9 miles of underground.

On long single phase rural line extensions of little or no rock digging the cost of underground is about the same or less than overhead. This is not the case in town areas, on short line extensions or on three phase lines.

Hearing Tests Set For Senior Citizens

Heppner— Electronic hearing tests will be given at the Belton Hearing Aid Service office on Friday from 3-7 p.m.

Factory-trained hearing aid specialists will be at the Northwestern Motel to perform the tests.

Anyone who has trouble hearing or understanding is welcome to have a test using the latest electronic equipment to determine if his loss is one which can be helped. Some of the causes of hearing loss will be explained, and diagrams of how the ear works will be shown.

Everyone should have a hearing test at least once a year if there is any trouble at all hearing clearly. Even people now wearing a hearing aid or those who have been told nothing could be done for them should have a hearing test and find out whether the latest methods of hearing correction can help them hear better.

The free hearing tests will be Friday, February 6, at the Northwestern Motel, from 3-7 p.m.



DATSUN PICKUP.

New Pickups

- 1976 7 ft. red, auto. trans. black interior
- 1976 7 ft. orange, stick, black interior
- 1976 6 ft.
- 1976 (4) 6 ft. pickups stick, gold, red, orange and cactus green

Used Cars

- 72 Wgn. blue, auto. trans. sharp, blue and white interior
- 72 Datsun 510 4 speed, mag. wheels
- 73 Pinto Wgn. 4 speed, radio, low mileage
- 72 Chev. Blazer 4 x 4, 4 speed, power steer
- 74 Ford wagon, air cond, bronze, tan interior, luggage rack

See Dan Hays, Mgr. and salesmen Larry and Lyle

Marbro Datsun
Pendleton
276-0330

DATSON DAVES

H&R Block Tax Service

will be in Heppner every Thursday, starting February 5, in motor home at Cal's Arco.

Hours 10 a.m.—5 p.m., later appts. taken.

More information contact Hermiston Office, 567-8498

THE INCOME TAX PEOPLE

H&R BLOCK Co.

1025 North First St. Hermiston

50th Semi-Annual Spring



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Starting Thursday, Feb. 5

Two pair of nationally advertised women's or girl's shoes for the price of ONE PAIR!

Choose from such famous names as Miss Wonderful, Air Steps and Charm Steps

Other special prices on men's, boys' and children's shoes

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—No mail or phone orders, please
—All sales final
—No exchanges
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